



Department of Veteran Services
 294 Main Street • Greenfield, MA 01301
 Phone 413-772-1571 • Fax 413-772-1401
www.greenfield-ma.gov

Timothy Niejadlik, Director
Laura Thorne, Assistant
Christopher Demars, Deputy Director
Brian Brooks, VSO

UPPER PIONEER VALLEY VETERANS' SERVICES DISTRICT

Veteran Resource and Referral Center located in Greenfield, satellite locations throughout the district

Member Towns

- Ashfield
- Bernardston
- Buckland
- Charlemont
- Colrain
- Conway
- Deerfield
- Erving
- Gill
- Greenfield
- Hawley
- Heath
- Leverett
- Leyden
- Monroe
- Montague
- New Salem
- Northfield
- Plainfield
- Rowe
- Shelburne
- Shutesbury
- Sunderland
- Warwick
- Wendell
- Whately

Meeting Notice

Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District
Wednesday May 12th 2021
6:00 P.M.

VIA WEBEX Conferencing System:

Meeting number: 132 153 2779

Join by video system

Dial 1321532779@greenfieldma.my.webex.com

You can also dial 173.243.2.68 and enter your meeting number.

Join by phone

+1-408-418-9388 United States Toll

Access code: 132 153 2779

Agenda

1. Call to Order
2. Approval of Prior Meeting Minutes
3. Old Business
 - Election of Officers, terms had been extended until this meeting due to Covid-19
4. New Business
 - Meetings via Webex continue and adaptations to operation because of Covid-19
 - 90 day report on district
 - Set next meeting date / time (Oct 2021) and location
5. Executive Session, if desired

***Please note that the list of topics in this notice was comprehensive at the time of posting, however the public body may consider and take action on unforeseen matters not specifically named in this notice.**



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Instructions to Join Meeting by Telephone

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- Plainfield*
- Rowe*
- Shelburne*
- Shutesbury*
- Sunderland*
- Warwick*
- Wendell*
- Whately*

- 1) Dial the telephone number shown on the agenda
1-408-418-9388
- 2) Enter Access Code
132 153 2779
- 3) Press #
- 4) Wait for to be "let you into the meeting"



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Oct 21 2020 UPVSD Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Member Towns

- Ashfield*
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- Colrain*
- Conway*
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- Erving*
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- Shutesbury*
- Sunderland*
- Warwick*
- Wendell*
- Whately*

- Meeting called to order at 1807 by Chairman Dave Gendron, Rule of Necessity passed due to Covid to accept 8 votes for majority
- Towns Present via Webex Phone: Ashfield, Gill, Heath, Leyden, Montague, New Salem, Shutesbury, Whately
- New Business** Motion to keep elected officers the same by Gill, seconded by New Salem, passes unanimously
- New budget for FY22 presented, motion to accept made by Whately, seconded by Leyden, passes unanimously
- Old business** Tim Niejadlik presents information on 3rd quarter district report for towns; this was part of packet handed out for meeting. Motion to accept by Gill, second by Leyden, report accepted unanimously.
- Next meeting date set for May 12th at 6pm UPVSD offices
- Motion to adjourn by Leyden at 1820, seconded by New Salem, meeting adjourned



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Plainfield
Rowe
Shelburne
Shutesbury
Sunderland
Warwick
Wendell
Whately

4th Quarter District Report CY20

Our district has now been officially in operation for 5 ½ years. We are the largest district by community count and square miles covered in the state. Below are just some of the programs and services we help veterans' and their dependents with:

- M.G.L. Ch 115 benefit – Needs based program of financial and medical assistance to eligible veterans and their dependents
- Assistance to veterans and dependents to help file for VA health care, pensions, and service-connected disabilities
- Homeless prevention assistance to veterans and their families
- Employment help with job searches, resumes, and job interview skills
- Burial assistance to include government markers, flag holders, internment, and VA burial reimbursement
- Veterans records retrieval and storage
- Referral to other public and private agencies to include housing, fuel assistance, employment, training, education
- Attend area outreach events(fairs, festivals, health care expos)

While the COVID-19 pandemic hampered our satellite location hours, our office remained opened and staffed to assist veterans.

We have continued to work hard helping veterans and dependents file for VA benefits due them. District now has around **\$2,403,293.87** in monthly Federal VA payments being paid to approximately 900 veterans. This is tax-free income paid due to service-connected injuries, low-income or survivor status.

We forecast the district's M.G.L. Ch115 caseload to remain flat for the foreseeable future. This is the states low income assistance program for veterans' and their dependents. Although reimbursed back to the towns at 75%, this takes a year to get back from the state, so reducing payouts up front has freed up funds for the district towns. This budget item has been reduced from **\$103,047.40 to \$38,060.84**(see attached Ch115 report) in the approximately 6 ½ years we have been managing the district (starting before the official formation in 2015) by thorough investigations and helping clients file for alternative source of income

For the coming year we have increased our accessibility to veterans records through direct DOD access and having our Deputy become a National Service Officer.

Timothy Niejadlik, Director
 Upper Pioneer Valley Veterans' Services District

	November 2014		January 2021		
	Number of Clients	Benefits	Number of Clients	Benefits	
Ashfield	2	\$ 1,183.54	1	\$ 446.80	
Bernardston	1	\$ 663.00	0	\$ -	
Buckland	9	\$ 6,329.34	4	\$ 2,901.26	
Charlemont	4	\$ 2,796.88	2	\$ 545.77	
Colrain	0	\$ -	1	\$ 521.93	
Conway	1	\$ 494.00	0	\$ -	
Deerfield	3	\$ 3,427.50	2	\$ 1,430.60	
Erving	6	\$ 2,737.66	1	\$ 374.50	
Gill	2	\$ 839.03	0	\$ -	
Greenfield*	82	\$ 56,977.21	41	\$ 20,767.60	Greenfield starts 8/2013
Hawley	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	when Laura & Tim started
Heath	0	\$ -	1	\$ 414.45	forming district
Leverett	2	\$ 1,869.00	0	\$ -	
Leyden	0	\$ -	2	\$ 465.81	
Monroe	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
Montague	27	\$ 13,882.08	13	\$ 6,313.93	
New Salem	1	\$ 691.50	0	\$ -	
Northfield	4	\$ 3,097.31	1	\$ 291.00	
Plainfield	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
Rowe	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
Shelburne	4	\$ 1,824.42	0	\$ -	
Shutesbury	1	\$ 668.90	0	\$ -	
Sunderland	6	\$ 5,045.03	3	\$ 2,411.55	
Warwick	1	\$ 521.00	1	\$ 142.00	
Wendell	0	\$ -	2	\$ 1,033.64	
Whately	0	\$ -	0	\$ -	
Total	156	\$ 103,047.40	75	\$ 38,060.84	
Average		\$ 660.56		\$ 507.48	